

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

September 13, 2013

The Health and Human Services Department is once again pleased to offer the influenza vaccine to all Newton students in Kindergarten through grade 12.

Both the flu shot and the flu nasal spray vaccine will be administered during the school day at no charge to families. The flu vaccination program is free again this year because the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing the flu vaccine for students, but we do request insurance information to help recoup costs to administer the vaccine.

Clinics will be held in each Newton public school from October through mid-November. Specific clinic dates will be announced at each school and are posted online at www.newtonma.gov/flu

To sign your child up, you should return two forms to the school nurse no later than 2 school days before the clinic date at your child's school:

- 1. Consent/Screening Form**
- 2. Student Vaccine Administration Record/Insurance Information Form**

Forms are available online at www.newtonma.gov/flu or in the school nurse's office.

Students who are not signed up will not receive the vaccine.

The Consent/Screening form requires parents to choose either the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine. Information about each type of vaccine, including its risks and benefits, is described on the Vaccine Information Statement posted at www.newtonma.gov/flu School nurses also have information and can answer any questions.

Students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades whose parents choose the flu shot will receive the quadrivalent flu shot that protects against four strains of the flu. Students in 3rd through 12th grades whose parents choose the flu shot will receive the trivalent flu shot that protects against 3 strains of the flu. All nasal spray flu vaccine is quadrivalent, so all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade whose parents choose the nasal spray flu vaccine will receive quadrivalent nasal spray flu vaccine.

This year we request that you let your child's health care provider know the date s/he receives the flu vaccine so it can be documented in your child's vaccination record. If you or your pediatrician requires a copy of the vaccination record, it is available upon request from the school nurse at your child's school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Every year children are at risk of developing serious complications from influenza. Flu vaccination is one of the best ways to protect children from getting the flu.

We hope you take advantage of this important prevention program.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hoshino
School Nurse Supervisor

David Fleishman
Superintendent